

Message Text

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FOR CARTER FROM PA

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TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (VANCE)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT BY-LINER BY JOHN F. BURNS,
NEW YORK TIMES, FRIDAY, AUGUST 26, HEADED "RHODESIA
UNLIKELY TO ACCEPT PROPOSAL."

2. SALISBURY, RHODESIA, AUGUST 25--AUTHORITATIVE SOURCES
SAID TODAY THAT THERE WAS NO PROSPECT WHATEVER THAT
PRIME MINISTER IAN D. SMITH'S GOVERNMENT WOULD ACCEPT A
BRITISH-AMERICAN PROPOSAL PROVIDING FOR A UNITED NATIONS
PEACEKEEPING FORCE TO MAINTAIN ORDER DURING A TRANSITION
TO BLACK MAJORITY RULE.

3. AT THE SAME TIME, THE RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT CAREFULLY
AVOIDED PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE PROPOSAL.
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4. MR. SMITH, CAMPAIGNING FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION
THAT WILL BE HELD HERE NEXT WEDNESDAY, HAS BEEN CAREFUL
TO HOLD OPEN THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE SETTLEMENT PROPOS-
ALS BEING PREPARED BY THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN, IF
REVISED FUNDAMENTALLY TO OFFER GUARANTEES FOR WHITES THAT

ARE NOT NOW INCLUDED, MIGHT FORM THE BASIS OF AN AGREE-
MENT.

5. HOWEVER, MR. SMITH HAS EMPHASIZED THROUGHOUT THE CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS THAT HE WILL NEVER AGREE TO THE DISMANTLING OF THE RHODESIAN ARMY AND POLICE, A STEP THAT IS APPARENTLY INCLUDED IN THE LATEST VERSION OF THE BRITISH-AMERICAN PLAN. DETAILS OF THE PLAN, TO BE CONVEYED OFFICIALLY TO MR. SMITH BY THE BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY, DR. DAVID OWEN, WHEN HE VISITS HERE NEXT THURSDAY, WERE LEAKED IN WASHINGTON YESTERDAY.

6. THOUGH AWARE OF THE WASHINGTON REPORTS, MR. SMITH AVOIDED ANY REFERENCE TO THEM DURING A CAMPAIGN SPEECH TONIGHT IN BULAWAYO, A RAILWAY AND INDUSTRIAL CENTER IN THE SOUTHWESTERN REGION OF THE COUNTRY. BUT, AS USUAL, HE WON HIS BIGGEST APPLAUSE OF THE NIGHT WITH A PLEDGE THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT ALLOW THE SMALL BUT EFFICIENT SECURITY FORCES TO BE UNDERMINED DURING THE TRANSITION PROCESS.

7. "WE ALL KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO US IF THE STANDARDS OF THE SECURITY FORCES ARE NOT MAINTAINED," HE SAID, TO PROLONGED CHEERING FROM THE 1,500 PEOPLE PRESENT, THE LARGEST AUDIENCE OF THE CAMPAIGN SO FAR. MANY OF THOSE PRESENT HAD READ OF THE PROPOSED PEACE-KEEPING FORCE IN THEIR MORNING NEWSPAPERS.

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8. EARLIER IN THE DAY, AN OFFICIAL IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE SETTLEMENT NEGOTIATIONS PUT THE POSITION MORE BLUNTLY. "IT'S NOT ON," HE SAID, SPEAKING OF THE REPLACEMENT OF THE SECURITY FORCES BY FOREIGN TROOPS UNDER THE UNITED NATIONS BANNER. "IF WE'RE ABSOLUTELY, INFLEXIBLY SET ON ONE THING, IT'S THAT."

9. MR. SMITH HAS CONTENDED ON EARLIER OCCASIONS THAT AN INTERNATIONAL FORCE, WHETHER PROVIDED BY THE COMMONWEALTH OR THE UNITED NATIONS, WOULD BE UNLIKELY TO STAND ITS GROUND IF ELEMENTS OF THE BLACK GUERRILLA ARMY WERE TO RESIST THE SETTLEMENT AND CONTINUE FIGHTING. MR. SMITH HAS SAID THAT THE LIKELY RESULT WOULD BE THAT THE INTERNATIONAL FORCE WOULD "RUN", CAUSING "CHAOS."

10. MR. SMITH'S DISCRETION ON THE LATEST PROPOSALS SEEMED TO REFLECT HIS DETERMINATION, FREQUENTLY EXPRESSED DURING THE CAMPAIGN, NOT TO PUT HIMSELF IN A POSITION WHERE HE CAN BE BLAMED FOR THE BREAK-DOWN OF THE BRITISH-AMERICAN INITIATIVE. WHEN A PREVIOUS INITIATIVE COLLAP-

SED EARLIER THIS YEAR, WASHINGTON AND LONDON BLAMED THE FAILURE ON THE INTRANSIGENCE OF MR. SMITH, ALTHOUGH BLACK NATIONALIST GROUPS HAD TAKEN AT LEAST AS UNYIELDING AN ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE PROPOSALS.

11. ACCORDING TO HIGHLY PLACED SOURCES, THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT, WHICH CONTROLS ALL OF RHODESIA'S TRADE, INCLUDING ITS SUPPLY OF OIL AND ARMS, HAS INSISTED THAT MR. SMITH NOT AGAIN PLACE HIMSELF IN A POSITION WHERE HE CAN BE PRESENTED AS THE PRINCIPAL OBSTACLE TO AN INTERNATIONALLY AGREED SETTLEMENT. THE SOUTH AFRICANS, UNDER PRESSURE THEMSELVES FROM THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION, ARE ANXIOUS TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR GOOD FAITH.

12. HOWEVER, THE SOURCES MAINTAIN THAT SALISBURY AND UNCLASSIFIED

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PRETORIA ARE CONVINCED THAT THE BRITISH-AMERICAN PLAN WILL EVENTUALLY FOUNDER ON THE INTRANSIGENCE OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT, THE MOST MILITANT OF THE NATIONALIST GROUPS, AND THE ONE CLAIMING TO CONTROL THE GUERRILLAS FIGHTING THE SALISBURY GOVERNMENT'S FORCES. ONCE THAT HAPPENS, THEY FEEL CONFIDENT THAT THE WESTERN POWERS WILL BE MORE INCLINED TO ACCEPT THE "INTERNAL" SETTLEMENT WITH MODERATE BLACK GROUPS THAT MR. SMITH HAS PROPOSED AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE BRITISH-AMERICAN PLAN.

13. UNDER THIS PLAN, BLACK MODERATES WOULD BE INVITED TO JOIN MR. SMITH'S GOVERNMENT SHORTLY AFTER THE ELECTION, ASSUMING HE TURNS BACK THE CHALLENGE OF THE RIGHT-WING RHODESIAN ACTION PARTY. THEN, WHITES AND BLACKS WOULD ATTEMPT TO WORK OUT A CONSTITUTION WITH MR. SMITH HOLDING OUT FOR A QUALIFIED FRANCHISE AND SEATS IN PARLIAMENT RESERVED FOR THE WHITE MINORITY, GIVING WHITES THE POWER TO DEFEND OTHER GUARANTEES THAT WOULD BE WRITTEN INTO THE FUNDAMENTAL LAW. THESE WOULD INCLUDE PROPERTY RIGHTS, AN INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY AND A NONPOLITICAL CIVIL SERVICE. CHRISTOPHER

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